

(Continued from the first Page.)

labourers or less, did not concern the question of the activity and support which he could give to the industry of his neighbourhood. Not upon him, but on the town in which he resided would the injury fall, of separating the colonies from the mother country. From a small individual scale, they might argue to the great scale of the nation. The wealth from the colonies was dispersed in this country, and the arts and industry which dignified society, would suffer, if the colonial interests were depressed. He saw before him a venerable personage by whose taste for letters and patronage of the fine arts, much had been contributed to his native country. He attempted to produce the same results, though at an humble distance; but when he reflected that even by the next packet he might learn that his West India property had vanished, he felt it his duty to contract his expenditure, but he lamented that the loss would fall on artisans, and persons employed in various branches of industry, in the aggregate of which consisted the happiness of nations. He could not trust himself to do more than advert to recent political mismanagement, except to lament the weakness of ministers in giving way in such a great national question to that party whose proceedings he had witnessed in the House of Commons, and which he could not but confess he had witnessed with indignation and disgust.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously. The Earl St. Vincent then rose to move the second resolution. He felt it would not be necessary to preface the resolution which he had the honour of submitting to the meeting, by any observations of his own, particularly after the ample address of the noble chairman on the general state of the West India colonies, and on the merits of the question they had now to decide. He should be brief, for he felt he might impair the force of what the Noble Chairman had said, and he was conscious he could not add weight to it. He would treat those who had any interest in the West India colonies, to consider one moment, the general calamity that would ensue, if any property of any description whatever which had been consecrated by the laws, should be invaded and broken down.—(Hear, hear.) If colonial property were thus to be sacrificed, what property would be left?—(Applause.) If one species of property were to be invaded, on account of some peculiar shade or distinction, who could say where such invasion would stop.—(Hear.) He remembered a case in which a man had been extremely troublesome, and was desired to move off. The fellow replied, he had as much right to be there as any body, for the land was made for mankind, whether an individual was designated the proprietor or not. If, upon the doctrine of original rights, of abstract principles, West India property consecrated by law was to be invaded, every man might approach them with the same argument. He had had the advantage of the Noble Chairman, by a residence in the West Indies, and he mixed in every thing relative to the general business carried on in that country. He did not wish to make any observations on what had fallen under his own notice, as so many of those whom he addressed resided there; but he would state, that when he lived in Jamaica, no prudent man would venture to become the proprietor of slaves without consulting their feelings. If a gang of negroes were to be purchased by a person with whom they were unacquainted, they would send a deputation to see the ground and houses which were to be allotted them, and if they declared a repugnance to be purchased, no prudent man would become their proprietor. Facts like these ought to be known, for they could not be stated except in pamphlets, in which the reader could not understand them from want of a local knowledge. The people of this country ought to know what the real system was. And unless a proprietor of an estate was determined to risk every thing on an abstract principle, the country might be brought to understand the impolicy and inhumanity of their intended proceedings. He would now beg leave to move the second resolution.

Mr. George Palmer felt extremely incompetent to follow the Noble Lord who had just sat down. Little remained for him to say but to second the resolution which had been put into his hand. There was, however, one subject on which he might ask for the indulgence of a few moments of the meeting, which was, with respect to the large amount of the shipping engaged in the West India trade. As a ship-owner, and one conversant with shipping business from his earliest years, he was probably able to say as much upon the importance of that subject as any other man. He meant to draw the attention of the meeting particularly to the comparative importance of the West India shipping with that of the shipping of the country to every other part. Upon this he would refer to the returns which had been made lately to the House of Lords—returns in themselves requiring a great deal of explanation to render them at all intelligible to the community at large. He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was then put from the chair and carried unanimously. Mr. Robinson, in rising to propose the next resolution, could not forbear uttering an expression of gratification at what he heard respecting the comparative value and importance of the shipping trade with the West Indies, and that of all other parts of the globe. And as to the danger and absolute ruin that might result to the colonists themselves, as well as to the mother country, by any dismemberment of these colonies, or by any depreciation in the value of colonial trade, it struck him with astonishment. But he said again that he was highly gratified at seeing such a meeting collected together at so short a notice, and he hoped and believed that the impression that would be made throughout the country by the result of that meeting, and upon His Majesty's Government, of whom he would speak with the highest respect, would have the effect of dissipating much of that delusion as to the colonies, which had so long prevailed in this country, and produce a conviction that their interests, and those of the mo-

ther country, were so identified that it was impossible to separate them, or to affect the one without materially injuring the other.

Mr. N. Gould, Chairman of the North American Colonial Association, seconded the resolution.

The following are the resolutions: 1. That, considering the awful crisis to which the British West India colonies have been brought by the pressure of pecuniary distress, as well as by alarming excitement amongst the Negro population, this meeting is desirous of expressing its opinion on the value of those colonies to the mother country, on the policy which she has lately pursued with regard to them, and on the measures best calculated to avert the impending calamity of their total loss as useful possessions of the British Crown.

2. That the value of the West India colonies to the revenue, manufacturing industry, and mercantile marine of Great Britain, may be best ascertained by reference to parliamentary documents, whereby it will appear that the duties annually collected from West India produce amount to seven millions sterling; that the annual official value of British manufactures exported to the colonies is about £5,500,000; and the amount of shipping employed in the direct trade about 250,000 tons; altogether exhibiting a branch of commerce almost unequalled in point of extent, and peculiarly important on account of its national character; the whole emanating from British subjects, in British vessels, and finally returning the whole value of cultivation in the colonies into the general resources of the mother country, while the cultivator is suffering the extremity of distress.

3. That, in addition to the direct intercourse of Great Britain with her West India colonies, an extensive commerce is maintained between those colonies and the British possessions in North America, which affords employment to upwards of 100,000 tons of British shipping; and, by furnishing a market for the fish, corn, salted provisions, and lumber of British America, contributes essentially to the prosperity of that other vast branch of colonial dominion, on which, jointly with the West India trade, Great Britain depends for the employment of at least one third of her whole mercantile, marine, and consequently, for her station amongst the nations of the world.

4. That the loss of the colonies, or the abandonment of interests, thus powerfully contributing to the resources of the mother country, would inflict upon numerous branches of manufacturing industry, as well as upon the revenue, an injury of incalculable magnitude, which would never be compensated by foreign trade. So great a destruction of commerce, essentially domestic in all its relations, must not only entail ruin upon numberless private families, but would withdraw from the manufacturers of copper, iron, mill-work, hardware, woollen and cotton goods, the fisheries, the collieries, the salt provision trade of Ireland, and all the various trades connected with shipping, a source of employment on which these industrious classes have been accustomed to rely in war as well as in peace. A great commercial convulsion must follow this loss of employment while, at the same time, the revenue would be seriously affected by a great diminution of consumption, arising out of the diminished ability of the people to purchase taxable commodities, and the enormous advance of prices of all colonial articles, which must attend the abstraction of the produce of the British West Indies from the general market of Europe.

5. That the loss or abandonment of the British West India colonies would be no less injurious to the real interests of humanity than to the commerce of this country. The negroes, if unsupported by the presence, the intelligence, and capital of Europeans, would speedily sink into a state of anarchy and moral debasement; and, while a deplorable cessation of industry, in raising articles for European consumption, would thus ensue in the British colonies, an irresistible inducement would be given to Foreign colonies to increase their cultivation, and for that purpose to extend the African Slave Trade, which this country, by great exertions and expenditure of money, has long and ineffectually endeavoured to suppress.

6. That the conduct of Great Britain towards her West India colonies has neither been consistent with the principle laid down in the Parliamentary Resolutions of 1823, nor with that spirit of justice and conciliation which is so necessary to the attainment of any national object. It should never be forgotten that the system of cultivation by slave labour was established by Great Britain for her own benefit; that the Colonists are Englishmen, lawfully possessing property under the direct sanction and encouragement of the mother country, and are entitled to the security and integrity of that property; they are naturally jealous of their character and rights; on them must depend the execution of all colonial laws wherever originating, and not only are they most competent to frame regulations for the real comfort of the slave, but they have a direct interest in his welfare; so that to discredit and endanger their property by perpetual interference, and to stigmatize them as a class of persons destitute of the common feelings of humanity, can neither tend to forward the purposes of justice, of sound policy, or of real improvement in the condition of the slave.

7. That popular clamour, arising from mistaken impressions as to the real condition of the negroes, and extended to the colonies, has already produced the most disastrous effects, by alienating the affection of the slave from his master, of the master from the mother country, destroying the credit of colonial property, causing constant agitation, and thus seriously retarding those measures of gradual improvement in the condition of the negro population, which it was the object of the British legislature to accomplish.

8. That this Meeting has observed with great regret, that at a moment when relief is avowedly necessary, even to the preservation of the West India Colonies, His Majesty's Ministers have declared their intention to make

that relief contingent on the unqualified adoption of an order of the King in Council, dated November 2, 1831; a line of policy, which being virtually designed to coerce the legislative colonies, by means of fiscal or penal regulations on their produce, is most objectionable, and calculated to widen the misunderstanding between the mother country and the colonists, to increase the excitement among the negro population, and thus to precipitate the ruin of the colonies.

9. That this meeting is anxious for the adoption of such further measures of amelioration as may, on due inquiry, be found necessary to the real welfare of the negro, and consistent with the Parliamentary resolutions of 1823; a feeling in which it is convinced that all the resident planters fully participate; but this meeting most earnestly proffers relief to the acknowledged distress of the colonist only on condition of abandoning his constitutional rights.

10. That, in order to avert, if possible, the dreadful calamity of the destruction of the British West India colonies, this meeting is of opinion that immediate relief should be given to the colonies, divested of the conditions imposed by His Majesty's Ministers, and sufficient at least to maintain the colonies in cultivation.

11. That, as an act of justice to the colonists, and with a view of preventing the fatal effects of that continued excitement which has already brought the colonies to the brink of destruction, and of removing from the public mind erroneous impressions in regard to the state of slavery in the British colonies, this meeting is of opinion that a full and impartial Parliamentary inquiry, on oath, should be immediately instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the laws and usages of the colonies, the actual condition and treatment of the slaves, their habits and disposition, and the degree of their progressive improvement and civilization. The information obtained from such authority would not only remove erroneous impressions, but lead to the consideration of such further measures of amelioration as, in the words of the Parliamentary resolution of 1823 "shall be compatible with the well-being of the slaves themselves, with the safety of the colonies, and with a fair and equitable consideration of the interests of private property."

12. That petitions, founded upon these resolutions, be presented to His Majesty, and to both Houses of Parliament.

The Minister and His Wife.—Lord— and his lady occupied two sleeping apartments, connected by a sort of ante-chamber, but approached from different sides by separate staircases. His Lordship one night had brought a confidential friend into the ante-chamber, where they were, as usual discussing politics and laying down plans of debate. It was late, and every person in the house had retired to rest. In the course of conversation a reference was made to a document, and his Lordship went to procure it. The shortest way lay through his lady's ante-chamber. He opened the door of the dressing room, and in so doing made a noise. He then proceeded to the bedroom, which also he opened, hastily traversed it, uttering his lady's name in a voice of agony, and returned to his friend.

That gentleman said that he had never witnessed such a change of countenance in so short a time. Scarcely a minute had passed, and the gay smile had given place to the most ghastly and cadaverous expression that could be conceived. He hastily drank off a large glass of wine, and uttered some incoherent exclamation as to what he had seen.

As he became somewhat calmer, he told his friend, that on entering the room, he plainly saw the figure of a person, reflected by a looking glass, as lazily reclining in the opposite staircase. His wife was asleep or pretending to be so. The gentleman was dressed, and the bed was undisturbed. He went forward to the door from which the escape had been made, but it was completely closed.

"Could there have been no mistake?" "Scarcely." He had seen the figure in the looking glass as plainly as ever he had seen his own face there.

"Did he know the man?" "Might it not have been a mere illusion?" His Lordship paused; he said that business had late disturbed him and that he was not always certain at such late hours that he was perfectly clear in all his perceptions. But still there was no disputing his senses—unless, said he, with a sigh, I have lost them altogether.

He returned to the bed-room, and on coming back, said that his lady continued to be asleep, and the room was perfectly undisturbed. His wanted coolness had returned; he affected to treat the matter as a mere delusion; said from his mind altogether and bade him good night.

He was never the same man again. Her ladyship lived always high in the estimation of society, but her husband never forgot the figure in the glass.

We do not vouch for the truth of a single word in this tale—we only tell the story as it was told to us, and shall not improve it by adding a single word of corroboration derived from any other circumstances. This is the foundation of the *noyelle* trumped up in Blackwood.—Court Journal.

Irish Tithes.—The following is said to be an outline of the plan Ministers intend to submit to Parliament. The Committee recommends that His Majesty be enabled to advance to incumbents of Parishes, not having received their tithes, sums of money proportioned to the incomes of each for 1831.

Chance.—"I am old enough," says Smollet, in a letter to his friend Garrick, "to have seen and observed that we are all playthings of fortune, and that it depends upon something so insignificant and precarious as the tossing up of a ball point, whether a man rises to affluence and honours, or continues in his dying day struggling with the difficulties and disgraces of life."

GEORGE BIGGS, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1832.

VOL. I—No. XXIII.

THE BAHAMA ARGUS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY IN NASSAU, N. P. Eight Dollars per annum—In advance.



POETRY.

From the Annet for 1832.

MOONLIGHT.

There are no stars: thou lonely moon, Thou art alone amid the sky; Methinks thou must be sad to hold Such solitary watch on high! 'Tis but a tale of old times— When all of feeling or of thought, And all the mysteries of the heart, Around them some fine fiction wrought— Which said that thou didst turn to earth Thy radiant eyes, to watch and weep Over the rest thou couldst not break— Endymion's passion-haunted sleep.

Beneath this moonlight false guide, They picture the immortal mind, Which seeks upon this weary earth, The love that it may never find. For though upon an eagle's wing The spirit for a while may rove, The pinions need some gentler tie, And deem the wanderer asks a home; Deems that affection is that home, And gives its likeness to its hope— 'Tis pure, the beautiful, the high, Fair queen, this fable of thy love Is but the doom Fate sees apart For earth's imaginative child, Who makes a temple of the heart.

A FRAGMENT.

Life's but a vision—a moment's dream, A varied scene of sadness; Life's a dark camera—a tainted stream, Not a lot of gladness; Why then struggle with ruthless Death, To stay the last—eternal breath!

DOMINICA.

THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

ROSEAU, April 7. Our columns of this day are chiefly engrossed by the report of a joint committee, consisting of eight members of the Honourable Board of Council, and of the House of Assembly, on His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21 of November last, in regard to the future government of slaves in the Colonies, recommended to the adoption of the Legislatures of those Islands, not immediately under the control of the Crown. It will be soon that the points referred to the consideration of the committee, and on which they were directed to report, were twofold.—By a resolution, originating with the Honourable Board of Council, the committee were called upon to report, whether, confined as was the Legislature, by the terms of the despatch of His Majesty's Secretary of State, to an unconditional adoption or rejection of the Order in Council, it would be compatible with the interests of the Colony, to submit to, or resist the demand. The House of Assembly passing over what has been perhaps elsewhere received with somewhat too much jealousy, as savouring of dictation, and desirous of giving a respectful, calm, and patient consideration to the propositions of the King's Government, directed the committee to report how far the provisions of the Order in Council coincided with the enactments already made by the legislature of the Colony, on the subject of the government and protection of the slaves, and whether any, and what parts of the Order in Council might be added thereto.

The report is now before our readers, and they will there see, that of 121 clauses, of which the Order in Council consists, the committee have recommended 50 to be adopted, some with very slight modifications; 27 are found to be anticipated by the Slave Act, passed in June last, while only 31 have been rejected, the remaining 13 clauses being such as could not be applicable to the structure of our Courts.

We congratulate the Colony, that the Legislature have so acted—we rejoice that the question has been met with a desire to deliberate, and, if possible, to legislate therein in a spirit of candour, and a willingness to discover wherein the Slave Code could be improved. When we contrast the respectful consideration which the Order in Council has received from the Legislature of this Colony, with the impression that an inopportune rejection of it would infallibly have produced, we cannot but expect, from His Majesty's Government an acknowledgment, that where it has been declared, that the provisions of the Order in Council are incompatible with the well-being of this community, such conclusion has not originated in a capacious spirit, or a desire to adhere to rooted prejudices,

but from a thorough conviction that the sudden and immense change proposed to be made in the condition of the slaves, by the enactment of the Order in Council, must be ruinous to the owner, without any adequate benefit to the slave.—Dominica Colonist.

DOMINICA.

Report of the joint Committee appointed to investigate and report their opinion, as to the alternative to be taken, whether, "unconditionally adopting or absolutely rejecting," the Order in Council of 21 November last, and how far the provisions of the Order in Council are met by the Slave Act passed in June last, and also how far the said Order in Council may be adapted with safety to the Colony, and without infringing unnecessarily on private property.

Your Committee in prosecuting the enquiry which your honourable board and house have directed them to make on the subject of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21 November, 1831, have given to that Order, and to the various explanatory documents which accompanied it their most serious and deliberate attention. They have also been assisted, during the course of their investigation, with the statements of many of the most intelligent and opulent Proprietors in the Colony. The result has impressed on the minds of your committee the solemn conviction that to give to the Order in question the force of law, would operate, in so far as regards the interests of the owners, as a virtual emancipation of the Slaves.

In laying before your honourable board and house the reasons which have induced your committee to come to the above decision, they wish to avoid entering into any abstract argument on the subject of slavery; they are desirous of bringing this question to a plain and simple issue. They premise merely that the slave owner is justly entitled to the property he has acquired, and that he cannot lawfully be dispossessed of it without compensation; a principle which was recognized by Mr. Canning when he moved the resolutions of 1823. But the value of a slave is the produce of his labour; whenever the whole produce arising from it is required for the maintenance of the slave, it is evident that his value has become null and totally unavailable to the possessor. Such, in the opinion of your committee, would be the inevitable consequence of the operation of the Order in Council. The increased expense to which the landed proprietor would be subjected by the regulations of food, clothing, and other articles, mixed with the limitation of slave labour, would altogether absorb the small revenue at present derived from the cultivation of his estate. When to this certain and fixed annual expense, are added the probable increase of Colonial Taxation to provide salaries to the different officers, the loss of time resulting from the encouragement to litigation given by the new Code, and the very great uncertainty of the produce of labour when deprived of the power of exacting it, your committee can arrive at no other conclusion than that the combined effect of the whole enactment would reduce the cultivated planter to a worse condition than if the actual emancipation of the slaves were demanded of him. Possessing the nominal title, but without any of the authority of a master, subjected in consequence to many severe pains and penalties, he would be compelled to the alms and invidious duty of providing for a population for whose labour he could have no prospect of deriving the smallest benefit; he could not even free himself from the chain thus oppressively wound round him by the voluntary manumission of his slaves, as in that case ample security would be exacted from him for the maintenance of the infirm, superannuated, and infatigable slaves, which constitute at least a third of the whole number.

In more fertile countries, the restrictions of the Order in Council may be less onerously felt, but in this Colony, where the amount of produce annually exported is but small, the enforcement of the Order would complete the ruin of every individual, who, in reliance on the good faith of the British Government and on the inviolability of the Charter which granted to him an independent Legislature, had vested his all in the security of colonial property, and whose sole and dearest interests are dependent on its prosperity.

Your committee will now advert to that part of Lord Goderich's Despatch of tenth December last, wherein his Lordship declares that His Majesty's Government entertains the strongest feelings of sympathy and compassion for the increasing distress under which all persons connected with West India Property are indiscriminately suffering, and the anxiety of His Majesty's Government to relieve the Planters from some portion of their commercial difficulties. Although these Colonies, both from the immense stake of British capital invested in them, and the large amount of yearly revenue they contribute to the Mother Country, are undoubtedly entitled to its fullest protection, yet your committee would fail in doing justice to their own feelings, were they, on this occasion, to omit declaring the high satisfaction they experience in seeing recorded the expression of such sentiments on the part of His Majesty's Government. They hail it as a happy assurance that it could never have been the intention of that Government to increase upon the Planter the pressure of those evils under which he is now suffering. They feel from it a conviction that His Majesty's Government will not refuse to listen to a candid exposition of the overwhelming burden which would be imposed on the Planter by the adoption of the whole of the Order in Council. The measures which His Majesty's Government have

pointed out for the relief of the West India interest are twofold; the first is the conclusion of a Treaty with France for the suppression of the Foreign Slave Trade, by which some check would be given to the growth of foreign Sugar. The feelings of the British colonists, equally with their interests, would be highly gratified by the complete success of this measure; yet although your committee cannot call into doubt the honest intention of the French Government in acceding to the Treaty, it may appear remarkable that the *concessions of the French West India Islands*, where notoriously the Slave-Trade has been carried on to a great extent, are not included in those of the other Foreign Colonies as subject to the right of mutual search. Allowing however that this measure will prove effectual for the suppression of a great part of the trade, a lapse of many years must naturally take place before any beneficial effect could be made on the colonial market.

The other measure which His Majesty's Government have announced as their intention to adopt, in order to meet in some degree the exigencies of the West India commercial interest, is one of Fiscal regulation so devised, as to be productive of real and substantial relief; what is the extent of relief to be afforded by it, your Committee have not the power of ascertaining. It must be evident, however, that, in order to alleviate in any degree the actual distress of the Planter, the measure of relief must not only influence his present condition, but must likewise include the effect of the alteration of the existing system of slavery resulting from the operation of the proposed Order in Council.—Your Committee will now allude only to a few of the leading points of such alteration and refer to the corroborating details set forth in another part of their report. The regulations for feeding and clothing will triple the present expense of the Slaves' maintenance, while the restriction of labour will take away a fourth part of the cultivation of the Estate. The amount of these losses can be easily and correctly ascertained, but the decrease of cultivation which would in all probability arise from the changes introduced in the discipline of the Slaves, cannot be so readily appreciated and must be exposed to the test of actual experiment. Your Committee however humbly submit that they have already clearly shown that the relief to be effectual must embrace the whole value of the produce of Slave labour, and that its operation must have as permanent a duration as the law which they are called upon to enact. Under these circumstances your Committee cannot refrain from entreating a reasonable apprehension that His Majesty's Government have miscalculated the amount of the burden which the proposed code would impose on the planter; it is moreover to be feared that no Minister, in the present situation of Great Britain, would consent to relinquish so large a portion of the Imperial revenues as would be required to afford an adequate compensation to the West India Proprietor. If His Majesty's Government, without affording any explanation of the nature of the intended measure of relief, should persist in enforcing a compliance with their demands, and even inflict upon this unfortunate Colony measures of unmitigated severity, your Committee are unable to foresee any evil of greater magnitude than the total annihilation of Colonial property—an evil which would be equally effected by the enactment of the Order in Council. These considerations therefore impel your Committee to the painful but necessary duty of declaring, as the first part of the report required from them, that in the only alternative allowed by His Majesty's Government, the welfare and even existence of this Colony require that the Order in Council of the second November 1831, should be rejected.

Your Committee now proceed to the consideration of the more pleasing part of the task required from them of reporting how far the provisions of the Order in Council are met by the Slave Act passed in June, and how far the said Order in Council may be adapted with safety to the Colony and without infringing unnecessarily on private property." Before entering into a detailed examination of the provisions of the Order in Council, your Committee cannot avoid expressing their regret that His Majesty's Government should have wholly abstained from the slightest acknowledgment of the Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Slaves, passed by this Legislature the 28th of June 1831. A notice of that Act, on the part of His Majesty's Government, would have had the effect at least of shielding this Colony from many of the reproaches which Lord Goderich, in his circular despatch of tenth December, has addressed to the Colonial Legislatures generally; and had it met with His Majesty's approbation, the slave population of this island would have been deriving the benefit of the many important advantages which the Act had liberally extended to them.

The first 26 Clauses of the Order in Council provide for the appointment of a Protector and a sufficient number of Assistant Protectors, and fix the duties they are to perform. The great objection which your Committee submit with respect to the appointment of these Officers, is the utter impossibility of providing for their Salaries by any increase of the Colonial expenditure. When it is considered that the Governor receives only eight hundred pounds sterling per annum, it will scarcely be denied that this very inadequate Salary to an Officer of such high rank sufficiently exposes the poverty of the Country. It is however His Majesty's Government would consent to appropriate a very small portion of the large amount of dis-

(Continued on the last Page.)



(Continued from the first Page.)

ties yearly derived from the produce of slave labour for the object of providing salaries to the protector and assistant protectors, your committee would recommend the enactment of the said twenty-six clauses with the exception of the eleventh, by which a most arbitrary and inquisitorial power is given, which may be abused to the worst of purposes. It is moreover altogether unnecessary for the attainment of justice, as by the eighteenth clause of the Slave Act of June last (to which act your committee refer throughout this report) a magistrate is authorized to compel the attendance of any slave to give evidence under a penalty on the manager or owner. To the twentieth clause an addition would be required to the following effect, "in case of the absence or sickness of the Chief Judge, then any Judge of the Court of King's Bench may discharge the prisoner." Your committee, in recommending the adoption, do not admit the necessity of the appointment of a Protector. The Courts of Grand Sessions bear ample testimony to the activity and zeal of the magistracy in attending to and bringing forward the complaints of the Slaves; but your committee submit that by its adoption, a pledge would be afforded to the British Government of the honest intention of the legislature in their enactments for the benefit of the slave population.

Clause 27 abolishes the Sunday Market; clause ninth of the slave act limited the duration of the market to half past ten in the forenoon; your committee being of opinion that it may be done away with altogether, recommend the adoption of that clause together with the 28th, 29th, and 30th clauses, but reject clause 31.

Clauses 32, 33, 34, and 35, are met by the provisions of clause four of the slave act, with this distinction, that in the exception of domestics and stock drivers are included by the latter act, also watchmen and nurses required for attendance on the sick.

Clauses 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40, regulate the mode and extent of slave punishment. The feelings natural to humanity must prompt your committee to incline favourably to any mode by which the quantum of punishment may be diminished, and its severity mitigated, yet to recommend so sudden and total a change of discipline as these regulations would produce, is more than reason can approve or prudence sanction. Your committee will point out those parts which appear the most objectionable. "No act or instrument of punishment to be carried or exhibited as an emblem of authority; no slave to be flogged for the purpose of coercing him to perform labour of any kind. Whipping of female slaves, even by order of a court or magistrate, prohibited. No corporal punishment to be inflicted until six hours after the commission of the offence, and not more than 15 stripes for any offence." What expression moreover can be more loose and undefined, more liable to a variety of different interpretations, or more calculated to mislead a manager than the following?—"That it shall be unlawful to punish any slave without a reasonable and adequate cause, or to inflict upon any slave a punishment more than adequate to the fault by such slave committed." It must be obvious to any one at all familiar with habits of the slaves, that any relaxation or change of discipline must be gradual, in order to overcome their ignorance and prejudices; they would otherwise embrace it as a ready mode of annoyance and resistance in the authority of the master; with this view, the legislature have in the several slave codes gradually reduced the power of the owner and persons having superintendence over slaves to inflict corporal punishment; and have enacted that no such punishment exceeding ten stripes shall be inflicted until the expiration of twenty-four hours after the offence committed. In the last slave act, a very material improvement was introduced, by which the flogging of female slaves was prohibited, except by the sentence of a court or magistrate. The effecting any decided improvement on the moral feelings of the slave population must be a work of slow and gradual operation. Wholly to annihilate the power of the manager to coerce the slave to labour would, in the opinion of your committee, be an experiment too hazardous for the present period, as in every gang of slaves there still remain lazy and indolent characters to whom confinement is no punishment. The knowledge that the power exists, frequently obviates the necessity of exercising it, and your committee have great pleasure in being enabled to report, that inquiries they have instituted on this subject, that the infliction of corporal punishment has, within the last 10 years, very considerably abated; and your committee look forward with confidence, that the lapse of a few years will enable the legislature to extend to that population, without the risk of incurring consequences injurious, either to the owners or the slaves, the more perfect abolition of their condition in this respect which His Majesty's government contemplate.

Clause 41 provides that any person convicted of illegal or cruel punishment to a slave shall, at the discretion of the court, forfeit such slave to His Majesty; and on a second, third, or other conviction, the court may sequester all slaves belonging to the offender for his benefit, such offender being therefore incapable of having any control over slaves.—The first part of this clause is similar to the 13th Clause of the slave act, with this difference, that the slave is thereby directed to be sold for the benefit of the owner; the Legislature having visited the offence with a severe punishment, a fine of two hundred pounds and six months imprisonment, were unwilling to interfere with the rights of property otherwise than by removing from the power of the offender the object of his cruelty. The great objection to the enactment of the latter part of the Clause authorising the sequestration of all the slaves, is that in the event of such a case happening in this Colony, the punishment would in all probability fall, not on the real offender, the nominal owner, but upon the Mortgagee of the property. Your Committee are therefore of opinion that the enactments of the 13th Clause of the said

slave act are sufficient to meet all the purposes of substantial justice.

The 42d Clause of the Order in Council is fully met by the 88th of the slave act.

The next 11 Clauses of the Order, No. 43 to 53 inclusive, direct a record book of punishments to be kept by each owner of slaves, and half yearly returns therefrom to be given by him. The great number of illiterate persons residing in distant parts of the country, and in situations where they could not possibly avail themselves of the benefit of the 48th Clause, authorising those unable to write to employ another to give the record, would operate to render a compliance with these Clauses impracticable. The Clauses are further objectionable as they compel a Manager to furnish evidence against himself, and your Committee are of opinion that the protection to slaves by the parts of the Order, which they have recommended for adoption, is so ample, that it is wholly unnecessary to deprive a manager of the space of thirty days, and to give security at the Secretary's Office, or put up his name to said Office for fifteen days previous to his departure, after which, at any time during forty-five days, a Ticket may be obtained.

The regulations of the Clauses 54 to 58 will be found to have been already anticipated by the 8th Clause of the slave act, with the exception that the intermarriages of slaves are limited by that act, to distances not exceeding five miles from each other's residence. This restriction, enacted for the benefit of the slave to avoid the obvious evils resulting from parties so nearly connected at a great distance from each other, your committee would recommend to be retained, and therefore see no necessity of advising any alteration of the eighth clause of the slave act.

The 59th clause of the Order provides, that slaves may acquire and devise property of any amount or description, with certain exceptions, and bring and defend actions in any court of justice in respect of such property, as fully as if the slaves were of free condition. The 15th and 16th clauses of the slave act appear to your committee to provide sufficiently for the security of any property the slave may acquire or possess; and the 21st clause of the same act, authorizes any free person on behalf of any slaves, to sue for, or damages for any wrongs or injuries sustained by such slaves. To allow a slave to maintain or defend actions in his own name is wholly incompatible with his servile condition, and your committee need seek no further illustration of this assertion, than by supposing an action brought by one slave against another slave, for the recovery of a sum of money, and then demanding to know, by what means the court could enforce the execution of their judgment against the defendant. The money is either expended or concealed, and to wrest from the slave, any articles of property he may possess, is inflicting a proportionate injury on his owner. By the colonial law, a slave cannot contract a debt, neither can he be sued, and the before cited clauses of the slave act, suffice for the security of his property, and afford redress for his wrongs. The only addition that your committee propose would be, empowering a slave to alienate, devise, or bequeath his property. This power has long been awarded by custom, but it would be preferable to give it the force of legislative enactment.

Clause 60 contains a Provision, that no slave shall become the proprietor of any boat or other vessel. In this for the purpose of bringing their provisions to market, by considerable distance. The number of small canoes owned by the slaves, is very great, and it would be an obvious hardship, and even injurious to deprive them of such property unnecessarily. The evident intention of His Majesty's Government in making the above exception, was to provide against the escape of the slave to the prejudice of the owner; but no such apprehension is entertained here, and as the other provisions of this clause are embodied in the twenty-ninth clause of the slave act, your committee see no necessity for its adoption.

Your committee do not object to the enactment of the 61st clause of the Order, which prohibits persons in a state of slavery from acquiring or possessing any slaves or having any interest therein; as however there exist cases where slaves have already acquired that kind of property, it would be necessary to authorise the sale of such slaves already acquired, or hereafter, to be devised or bequeathed to any slave, for the benefit of the owner or legatee. The 62d clause is provided for by colonial law.

The 63d clause, establishing a court of requests for slaves to try questions of slave property not exceeding ten pounds, is in this colony quite superfluous; the court of out a jury, takes cognizance of all claims not exceeding ten pounds sterling, and by the petty debt act, a single way, on all cases of debt not exceeding two pounds thirteen shillings sterling. The expense of process in each procedure, particularly in the latter, is fixed at the lowest possible rate, and it would be impracticable to establish, that in no case the amount of the fees should exceed a fourth of the value in dispute. Claims of the value of two shillings sterling are frequently sued for, and it would be unreasonable to expect that sixpence could defray the charge of process and execution.

Clauses 64 to 68 of the order direct that all slaves, being the property of the same owner, and bearing to each other the relation or reputed relation of husband and wife, parent and child, shall be sold together. The twentieth clause of the slave act forbids married slaves, belonging to the same owner, to be sold separate, or any slave child under twelve years to be separated from its mother. To give to slaves living in a state of concubinage the same advantages as to those connected by lawful wedlock would not, in the opinion of your committee, tend much to the improvement of religious feelings or moral habits. Experience having convinced the planters of the great benefit derived from the intermarriage of their slaves, that class proving generally the most useful, in-

dustrious, and trust-worthy of their gangs, they have promoted it by every possible encouragement. The intermarriage of marriages has of late been very considerably increased. The prejudices of the slaves, formerly so much opposed to such advantages. The slaves are now fully able to appreciate the superiority of a married condition, and your committee, are of opinion that the above clause of the slave act, confining their operation to married slaves and their lawful progeny, might be advantageously adopted in execution of the twentieth clause of the slave act.

(To be continued.)

SECRETARY'S OFFICE. Every person about to leave these Islands, who having resided therein for the space of THIRTY DAYS, and give security at the Secretary's Office, or put up his name to said Office for FIFTEEN DAYS previous to his departure, after which, at any time during FORTY-FIVE DAYS, a Ticket may be obtained.

NAMES OF PERSONS ABOUT TO OBTAIN TICKETS FOR DEPARTURE. 23d February Elizabeth Sullivan 21st April W. A. Alexander 24th " John Alby 1st June Francis Monell 2d " Maria Johnson

BRUCE'S NEW YORK TYPE FOUNDRY, established in 1813.—The subscriber has completed a new edition of his book of Specimens with which his customers, and other Printers disposed to buy from him, may be supplied on application at his Foundry, Nos. 11 and 20 Augustus street, behind the City Hall. He would remark, for the information of those who have not been in the habit of dealing with him, and because a different practice has been extensively introduced, that his book contains nothing but the actual productions of his own Foundry, and presents a true specimen of what will be furnished by orders. The assortment is very complete, has been selected liberally and carefully in twenty years brought to its present high state of perfection, and embraces a variety of styles, adapted to different tastes and to the various departments of printing Newspaper, Book and Job, highly finished, and of the most serviceable metal. Not to mention the varieties which are distinguished by their numbers in the Book, it contains ROMAN and ITALIC 27 sizes, from twelve-line Pica to Pearl.

TWO-LINE and TITLE, 15 sizes, Two-line Columbian to Agate. SHADED, 13 sizes, Ten-line Pica to Long Primer. ITALIAN, 7 sizes, Seven-line Pica to Long Primer. ANTIQUE, 17 sizes, Ten-line Pica to Nonpareil. BLACK, 12 sizes, Four-line Pica to Minion. OPEN BLACK, 5 sizes, Four-line Pica to Great Primer. SCRIPT, 2 sizes, Double Small Pica and Great Primer.

Besides Music, Back Slope, Ornamented Letters and Lottery Figures, Piece Fractions, Superiors, Astronomical and other Signs, Space Rules, Superior, Ornamented Dashes, Long Braces, more than 200 kinds of Flowers, and 1000 Cuts and Ornaments for School Books, Newspapers, and Scientific works.

Orders for any of these, and also for Presses, Cases, Composing Sticks, Cases, Furniture, Printing Ink, or any thing required in the Printing business, will be executed to the most favourable terms, and with the utmost promptitude, a large stock of the Foundry articles being always on hand.

Printers of newspapers who publish this advertisement three times, and forward a paper containing it to the Foundry, will receive payment for the same, if they pay to the Foundry, to four times the amount.

GEO. BRUCE. New York, January, 1832.

EXUMA SALT, for sale at 15 cents per bushel. Apply to THOMAS THOMPSON, At Exuma. February 4th.

NOTICE.—THE SUBSCRIBERS offer for sale, by private bargain. 6 lbs. choice Madeira Wine, 40 dozen do. do. do. 60 dozen do. Teneiffé do. 1 trunk Gentlemen's Shoes, 2 blue Dinner Sets. HENRY GREENSLADE & CO. December 24th.

BLANK FORMS, of every description, may be procured at this Office. N. B.—Job Printing executed with neatness and dispatch, upon good paper, and on moderate terms January 4, 1832.

FOR SALE.—The choice of 2 Lots of Land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate in Prince's street, generally known by the name of Lightfoot, or Cupid's Row. For Terms and other particulars, apply to the Subscribers. HENRY GREENSLADE & Co. March 3d.

The Bahama Argus.

GEORGE BIGGS, Editor.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1832.

VOL. I—No. XCIV.

THE BAHAMA ARGUS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY IN NASSAU, N. P. Eight Dollars per annum—in advance.



POETRY.

STANZAS. Life hath its sunshine; but the ray Which flashes on its stormy wave, Is but the beacon of decay. A meteor gleaming o'er the grave: And though its dawning hour is bright With fancy's gayest colouring, Yet o'er its cloud encumbered night Dark ruin flaps his raven wing.

Life hath its flow'rs; and what are they? The buds of early love and truth, Which spring and wither in a day. The gems of warm confiding youth; Alas, those buds decay and die— Ere ripened and matured in bloom— Then in an hour behold them lie Upon the still and lonely tomb.

Life hath its pang: of deepest thrill, Thy sting, relentless memory! Which wakes not, pierces not, until The hour of joy hath ceased to be; Then, when the heart's in its pall, And cold affections gather o'er, Thy mournful anthem doth recel Bliss which hath died to bloom no more.

Life hath its blessings; but the storm Sleeps like the desert wind in wrath, To sear and blight the loveliest form Which sports on earth's deceitful path. Oh! soon the wild heart-broken wail, So changed from youth's delightful tone, Floats mournfully upon the gale, When all is desolate and lone.

Life hath its hope; a fleeting dream A cankered flower, a setting sun, Which casts a transitory gleam Upon the even clouds of dun. Pass but an hour—that dream hath fled! The flowers on earth forsaken lie! The sun has set, whose lustre shed A light upon the shaded sky.

DOMINICA.

THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

ROSKAU, April 7.

Report of the joint Committee appointed to investigate and report their opinion, as to the alternative to be taken, whether of "unconditionally adopting or absolutely rejecting," the Order in Council of 2d November last, and how far the provisions of the Order in Council are met by the said Order in Council may be adopted with safety to the Colony, and without infringing unnecessarily on private property.

(Concluded from our last.) The 69th clause is provided for by the 20th clause of the slave act, with this difference, that the former extends the age of the child to sixteen, while the latter limits it to twelve. In this respect your committee do not recommend any alteration in the slave law.

The next fifteen clauses of the Order No. 70 to 84 regulate the proceedings in the cases of Manumissions. These are fully provided for by the 39th, 40th, 41st, 42d, 43d, 44th, and 45th, clauses of the slave act, and by the act for abolishing all duties or taxes on the Manumission of slaves. The said clauses of the slave act were adopted from the Trinidad Order in Council and do not appear to deviate materially from the present Order, with the exception that any donation inter vivos shall not entitle a slave to purchase his freedom. The reasoning of Lord Goderich on this point, in his Lordship's explanatory letter of fifth November, satisfies your committee that the exception may be omitted without fear of prejudicial effects, and they recommend therefore such omission accordingly.

Your committee are compelled to withhold their assent to the 85th clause, which would establish a power of interference with Legislative enactment. The 86th clause establishes rules to be observed in questions affecting the freedom or slavery of individuals, and your committee see no objection to the adoption of this clause.

Clause 87th enacts that the evidence of slaves shall be admissible in the same manner as persons of free condition; the 17th clause of the slave act which admits slave evidence in as full and effectual a manner as is provided for in the order, contains a proviso that slaves shall not bear testimony against their owners except for personal injuries. This condition was introduced for the purpose of preventing the liability of slaves to be subpoenaed, at the suit of third parties against their Owner, on any civil or criminal process in which the slaves were not concerned.

In granting the admissibility of slave evidence to the utmost extent wherever the rights, property or interests of that class were involved, the legislature judged proper to afford the owner a protection from the annoyance and loss of time to which he would be exposed if his slaves became subject to be summoned as witnesses on questions no wise affecting their rights.

Clauses 88 and 89 of the Order contain regulations respecting the feeding of the slaves; your committee premise their observations on these clauses with the declaration that had the whole Order in Council, to use the language of Lord Goderich, been unconditionally adopted, these regulations would have created a feeling of angry excitement in the slave population of the Island, the extent of which it would be impossible to calculate. It will be readily conceded, that it is much more easy to withhold from that class an indulgence to which they are not habituated, than to abstract from them any portion of what, by immemorial custom and the laws of the colony, they have been taught to regard as a legal and positive right. The number of agricultural slaves is 13,000; of these about 7500 are employed in the cultivation of coffee, and about 5500 in that of sugar. To the whole of the first and about a fifth of the latter number, a day in every week has long been allowed for the cultivation of their grounds, to supply themselves with provisions. The Order in Council allows only forty days in the year for this purpose; thus 8500 slaves in every year, for it would be refining too much to suppose that the owner, bound down by the restrictions of slave labour, would voluntarily supply the deficiency of the colony. Your committee feel convinced that it never could have been in the contemplation of His Majesty's Government to inflict on the slave population of this Island so great a hardship and privation. The evil only requires to be pointed out to be remedied, but it affords, at the same time, a striking proof of the impracticability, not to say injustice, of attempting to enforce on the whole of the Colonies one uniform system of slave Government. Various local circumstances and different local enactments have given to the population of each Colony habits that it would be unwise hastily to disturb, and what they have long been accustomed to consider a matter of right, it would be equally imprudent to interfere with. The best means to raise the condition of a slave in the scale of society and gradually to assimilate his servile state to that of free property, is to render him, as much as possible, dependent on his own exertions for the procurement of necessary wants and attainable indulgences; it creates habits of industry and sobriety, and moreover a feeling of independence in the mind of the slave, which not militating against the authority of the master, but on the contrary prompting him to perform his allotted task, readily and cheerfully, it should be the duty of the Legislature to promote and encourage. With a view to this desirable attainment the fifth clause of the slave act directs that on no pretence whatever shall less than twenty six days in each year be allowed to each slave, and that during crop, when it shall be lawful to withhold the Saturday, three pounds of salt fish shall be given to each slave above ten years. The twenty six days out of crop allotted for working provision grounds were judged sufficient to furnish such a supply of vegetables as to render it unnecessary to include them in the allowance. Your committee are however of opinion that some addition thereto might be made; to such proprietors as cannot afford an increased allowance, the alternative of giving every Saturday throughout the year is offered, and it would tend to produce a result so desirable in the opinion of your committee, that what is desirable in general, would shortly become the universal practice. The same clause of the slave act directs that half an acre of land shall be given to each slave, so that a family with four children have three acres for their cultivation. The quantity of land attached to each estate in this Island rendered this allowance a matter of no difficulty, indeed many industrious negroes possess from three to five acres each of provision grounds. The order in Council directs that one quarter of an acre only shall be given to slaves under fifteen years, and the allowance of vegetable provisions appears strangely disproportionate. It would be as impossible for a healthy grown up negro to consume eight pounds of yams a day, as to satisfy his appetite with eight plantains. The articles of wheat, flour, and corn meal, your committee will not allude to. In this colony where the supply of vegetable provisions is so abundant, a well directed policy would limit the allowance to such articles as are cultivated by the slaves, and which they prefer for food, and not permit any substitution except in seasons of actual scarcity, or in the unfortunate event of such a calamity as befel the Island of Barbadoes last year. The direction contained in the eleventh rule of the 88th clause to charge some other slave with the cultivation of the land allotted to an orphan for the benefit of such infant, is quite impracticable. The infant is, in such case always nourished at the charge of the master, until it attains an age capable of self support. The twelfth rule is superfluous, the slaves possess abundance of seeds for planting, and cultivate their grounds with the implements of their masters. With regard to the sixteenth rule your committee observe that it is always the duty of a manager of slaves to pay attention that the Provision lands are duly cultivated: but if he is forbid by the 36th clause of the order to compel a slave to labour in the general work of the estate, what power has he of enforcing the observance of this rule? Your committee have not overlooked what appears to them to be a singular omission in these regulations, the declara-

tion of the planter to give his slaves grounds should precede by twelve months the release of his obligation to feed them, or the land allotted for that purpose should be already in a state of cultivation, and bearing provisions. On the whole your committee do not see that the introduction of these regulations would afford any benefit to the slave.

The next clauses of the Order No. 90 to 96 prescribe the duration of the labour of slaves. The regulations here laid down would, in their strict interpretation, operate very injuriously on the cultivation of the Estates, yet your committee flatter themselves by introducing a modification to no very serious injury to the growers of produce. In this latitude the duration of the day differs from eleven to thirteen hours; the sun setting on the twenty-first of June, at half past six, and on the 21st of December, at half past five, and there is about half an hour of twilight before sunrise and after sunset. The morning dawn is employed by the negro in preparing his breakfast, and he goes to the field about sunrise; in the afternoon he quits his work at sunset; he then returns home with the grass he had previously collected, throws it into the cattle pens, and attends the calling over the list of names: this occupies the period of the twilight, and he then returns to his hut until the next morning. This is the yearly routine of a field negro's labour, and it will not be found to differ materially from the provisions of the order, but on both the sugar and coffee Estates, during the time of crop, certain manufacturing processes are necessary which detain those employed in them somewhat longer. On the former sugar estates some are employed in boiling the cane juice into sugar; from ten to twelve people are employed in and about the mill, and from eight to ten in and about the boiling house. On the coffee Estates the berries are thrown into the receiver at sunset, and eight people are occupied between two and three hours in passing them through the pulping mills. It is therefore apparent that if in either case the manufacturing process should cease at six in the evening, that the field labour must terminate at three in the afternoon. Your committee must object strongly to such minute interferences with slave government as is indicated by the 92d and 94th clauses. They must presuppose the body of proprietors not only destitute of the common feelings of humanity, but also ignorant of their own interests with which the welfare of the slaves is also intimately connected. The children are employed in labour suitable to their age. Female slaves in a state of pregnancy and aged people are employed in light work. The slaves are perfectly aware of these privileges which long custom has sanctioned to them, and never fail to complain of any infringement. The offender would in such case be liable to punishment under the 13th clause of the slave act, for ill-treatment.—The above considerations induce your committee to recommend an alteration of the 4th clause of the slave act to the effect of fixing the duration of slave labour throughout the year from sunrise to sunset, and allowing half an hour after sunset for throwing grass and calling the list, with a provision that during crop it shall be lawful to employ on sugar estates any number of slaves not exceeding twelve in and about the mill house until seven o'clock, and any number not exceeding ten in and about the boiling-house until nine at night, and on coffee estates any number not exceeding sixteen till eight o'clock. The 91st clause of the order to be added to the said alteration.

Your committee have now reached to the 97th, 98th, and 99th clauses of the order, which regulate the clothing and other articles to be furnished to the slaves. These clauses have been considered by the planters, and not without reason, to be the most obnoxious of the whole order. They triple the expense of clothing the slaves, by prescribing articles some of which are useless, others extravagant or not appropriate. The shoes alone would entail a heavy charge, as a gang of ninety-nine people, allowing a third to be children, would require one hundred and sixty-five pairs of shoes. The prescribing of this article betrays an ignorance of the habits of the slave population. Slaves, and indeed many of the poor planters, never wear shoes except to show off their finery on religious festivals and ceremonies and on days of merriment. It is to their love for display on such occasions that the slaves devote the fruits of their industry in raising provisions and rearing stock. The shoes procured would certainly be of a coarse quality. The slave would despise them as an article of dress, and to compel him to work with them would be equal to the infliction of a severe punishment. The 38th clause indeed gives a power of substituting for these shoes other articles of equivalent value, but why exact from the impoverished planter the extravagant cost of useless and unnecessary articles, by empowering the protector to substitute others, at the dictate of his fancy, as unnecessary and perhaps equally useless? Straw or chip hats for the females are neither durable nor useful, in order to afford any protection against the sun or rain; they should be made of felt. A blanket in each year is an extravagant allowance, so likewise a saucepan and kettle, pot or cauldron. This is in fact holding out an encouragement for waste and carelessness. With respect to the latter articles your committee are at some loss to understand the meaning of the tenth rule of the 88th clause, which directs that the slaves shall be pro-

(Continued on the last Page.)